REMARKS

In an Office Action dated April 17, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-9, 11-15, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Liao et al. (U.S. patent no. 6,606,663, hereinafter referred to as "Liao"). The Examiner rejected claims 2, 10, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Liao. The rejections are traversed and reconsideration is hereby respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-9, 11-15, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Liao. Claim 1 has been amended to provide a method for an infrastructure element to establish communications between two peers, the method comprising monitoring at least a portion of messages exchanged between the two peers for control messages, wherein the control messages comprise one or more parameters, storing at least one of the one or more parameters of the control messages exchanged between the two peers to produce a stored parameter, determining that a received control message is a retransmission of a control message from one of the two peers, wherein the retransmission of the control message will lead to duplicate negotiations between the two peers, and processing the retransmission of the control message and sending a valid proxy response to the sender of the retransmission, wherein the response comprises the stored parameter such that the duplicate negotiations are avoided between the two peers. These features are not taught by Liao.

Liao teaches a proxy server that caches an authorization credential received from, and associated with, a wireless device. The authorization credential is associated with, and permits the wireless device access to, a protected web-based server. After providing the authorization credential to the proxy server, the wireless device need not send the credential when subsequently accessing the web-based server. Instead, the proxy server attaches the stored credential to an access request received from the wireless device and then forward the request, with the attached credential, to the web-based server.

By contrast to claim 1, the proxy server taught by Liao does not send a proxy response to a message, it just forwards the received message. That is, the proxy server of Liao merely adds header information to the received request and then forwards the

request to its intended destination. The proxy server does not send the message with the attached credential back to the sender of the message, and the proxy server does not care, and does not determine, whether a message is a retransmission of a control message. Liao is merely concerned with saving memory in the wireless device by reducing information that the device must store and send to each web-based server subscribed to by the wireless device. By contrast, claim 1 teaches a method whereby set up time for a communication session may be reduced by sending a proxy response to a retransmission without the need for the retransmission to reach its endpoint. Nowhere is this taught by Liao.

Therefore, Liao does not teach the features of claim 1 of storing at least one parameter of control messages exchanged between the two peers to produce a stored parameter, determining that a received control message is a retransmission of a control message from one of the two peers, wherein the retransmission of the control message will lead to duplicate negotiations between the two peers, and processing the retransmission of the control message and sending a valid proxy response to the sender of the retransmission, wherein the response comprises the stored parameters such that the duplicate negotiations are avoided between the two peers. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that claim 1 may now be passed to allowance.

Since claims 2-8 depend upon allowable claim 1, the applicants respectfully request that claims 2-8 may now be passed to allowance.

Claim 9 provides, in a communication system comprising at least two peers that communicate with each other across an intermediate network comprising at least one infrastructure element, a method for an infrastructure element of the at least one infrastructure element to establish communications between a first peer and a second peer of the at least two peers, the method including receiving from the first peer, a request control message targeted to the second peer, receiving from the second peer, a response to the request control message, storing at least one parameter from a response to the request control message to produce a stored parameter, receiving, from the first peer, a retransmission of the request control message, and processing the retransmission of the request control message and sending a valid proxy response to the first peer comprising

the stored parameter. Liao does not teach these features as, again, Liao merely teaches receiving an access request, adding an authorization credential to the access request, and then forwarding the access request to its intended destination. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that claim 9 may now be passed to allowance.

Since claims 10-14 depend upon allowable claim 9, the applicants respectfully request that claims 10-14 may now be passed to allowance.

Claim 15, as amended, provides an apparatus for use in an intermediate network across which at least two peers communicate with each other, the apparatus comprising a processor that monitors at least a portion of messages exchanged between two peers of the at least two peers for control messages, wherein the control messages comprise one or more parameters, stores, in an at least one storage device, at least one parameter of the one or more parameters corresponding to the control messages exchanged between the two peers to produce a stored parameter, determines that a received control message is a retransmission of a control message from one of the two peers, wherein the retransmission of the control message will lead to duplicate negotiations between the two peers, and processes the retransmission of the control message and sends a valid proxy response to the sender of the retransmission that comprises the stored parameter, such that the duplicate negotiations are avoided between the two peers. As described in detail above with respect to claim 1, these features are not taught by Liao. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that claim 15 may now be passed to allowance.

Claims 19 and 20 teach a base station controller (BSC) and a mobile switching center (MSC) embodying the apparatus of claim 15. The Examiner contended that these claims are taught by the airnet 102 of Liao. However, Liao clearly teaches that the proxy server 114 is external to airnet 102 (see FIG. 1 and col. 4, lines 35-37). For these reasons, and since claims 16-20 depend upon allowable claim 15, the applicants respectfully request that claims 16-20 may now be passed to allowance.

As the applicants have overcome all substantive rejections and objections given by the Examiner and have complied with all requests properly presented by the Examiner, the applicants contend that this Amendment, with the above discussion,

overcomes the Examiner's objections to and rejections of the pending claims. Therefore, the applicants respectfully solicit allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter. Furthermore, please charge any additional fees (including any Request for Continuing Examination and extension of time fees), if any are due, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2117.

Respectfully submitted,
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